



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACTS: Melissa Withers
mwithers@riedc.com
(401) 278-9134

Andy Cutler
andy@cutlerandcompany.com
(401) 743-7842

URI's VP for Research and Economic Development Named to Rhode Island Science and Technology Council

Dr. Peter Alfonso is newest addition to advisory group focused on advancing the state's R&D, entrepreneurship and innovation agenda

(January 25, 2008)--The Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) today announced that Dr. Peter Alfonso, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Rhode Island, will join the council effective January 25, 2008.

"Dr. Alfonso is a welcome addition to STAC," said Clyde Briant, STAC co-chair and Vice President for Research at Brown University. "He brings to the council extensive experience in research and research management. Most importantly, he shares our enthusiasm and support for increasing collaboration across the state's research and development institutions. He will be a great partner and participant in our efforts moving forward."

In previous research administration positions, Alfonso served as the Vice President for Research at the University of North Dakota, Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Tennessee and as Associate Provost for Research, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

"STAC has made excellent progress in advancing the state's innovation agenda," Alfonso said. "I am excited to join STAC's efforts to deepen Rhode Island's research and development capacity, promote collaboration, encourage entrepreneurship and assist in making innovation central to the state's leadership agenda."

Alfonso replaces Joseph Amaral, former president of Rhode Island Hospital, who served on STAC from 2006 to January 2008.

“On behalf of STAC, I thank Joseph Amaral for his service to the Council. We are grateful for his contributions to our efforts” said Jeff Seemann, STAC co-chair and Dean of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Alfonso’s appointment was announced at STAC’s meeting on January 25. The meeting also marked the release of the council’s recommendations for 2008. Among these recommendations was a proposal to expand and relocate the Slater Fund’s life sciences incubator and an initiative to expand the state’s collaborative Research Alliance.

About the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council

The Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) was created in 2005 and sustained by legislative statute in 2006 with the mission to make innovation central to the state's leadership agenda.

STAC is charged with recommending and implementing policies and practices that 1) support the state's research and development activity; 2) promote collaboration across institutions; 3) encourage entrepreneurship and new company creation; and 4) enable all Rhode Island organizations, both public and private, to innovate.

STAC aims to assist Rhode Island's leadership in creating an innovation economy that will grow higher wage jobs and address critical needs in areas such as healthcare, education and public safety.